

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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SUBJ: WEST GERMAN PRESS COMMENTS ON JULY 12-13

EUROPEAN COUNCIL

1. JULY 14 WEST GERMAN PRESS HAILED JULY 12-13
EUROPEAN COUNCIL. CITING DECISION RE 1978 DIRECT
ELECTIONS TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, MOST PAPERS TOOK
VIEW THAT BRUSSELS SUMMIT HAD ARRESTED SENSE OF DRIFT
SINCE LUXEMBOURG MEETING AND THUS GIVEN NEW IMPULSE
TO EUROPEAN INTEGRATION. PAPERS ALSO PRAISED FRG
PERSISTENCE IN SEEKING FIRM EC COMMITMENT TO 1978
ELECTIONS AND FRG WILLINGNESS MAKE SACRIFICES TO
ACHIEVE THAT END.

2. INFLUENTIAL FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE HEADLINED
"NEW HOPE FOR EUROPE". LENGTHY FRONT-PAGE COMMENT,
TITLED "NEW IMPULSE FROM POPULAR WILL", SAID DIRECT
ELECTIONS WILL CREATE MORE DEMOCRATIC COMMUNITY AND
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THUS END RULE BY TECHNOCRATS IN BRUSSELS. EDITORIAL

NOTED THAT QUESTION OF "DOUBLE MANDATE" STILL OPEN BUT THAT MAIN ISSUE IS TO BRING TOP QUALITY POLITICIANS INTO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.

3. INDEPENDENT DIE WELT HEADLINED THAT "SUMMIT WITHOUT DISAPPOINTMENTS OPENS DOOR TO EUROPEAN ELECTION." SEPARATE COMMENTARY OPINED THAT 1978 ELECTIONS WILL GIVE EUROPE "PARLIAMENTARY DIMENSION" AND "SHARPER CONTOURS" OF HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE, AND COULD THUS OFFSET SPREADING SENSE OF RESIGNATION OVER FUTURE OF EUROPE.

4. INDUSTRY-ORIENTED HANDELSBLATT WROTE INTER ALIA OF EC-9 DOMESTIC HURDLES, PARTICULARLY IN FRANCE, WHICH COULD ENCUMBER RATIFICATION OF TREATY AMENDMENTS TO PERMIT CARRYING OUT OF 1978 ELECTIONS. FOR THIS REASON, ARTICLE SAID THAT MAY 1978 ELECTIONS NO MORE THAN "TARGET AND HOPE".

5. MUNICH'S SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG HEADLINED "NEW STEPS IN DIRECTION OF EUROPE." LONG COMMEHTARY NOTED THAT MANY OBSTACLES STILL ON PATH TO POLITICAL UNION, BUT THAT IMMEDIATE TASK IS TO HAVE AS MANY TOP POLITICIANS AS POSSIBLE CAMPAIGN FOR SEATS IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. ARTICLE IRONICALLY NOTED THAT EC GREEN LIGHT FOR 1978 DIRECT ELECTIONS IS OUTGROWTH OF AGREEMENT BY PARIS-BONN-LONDON "DIRECTORATE".

6. BONN'S GENERAL ANZEIGER WROTE THAT DECISION ON ELECTIONS HAD BROUGHT EUROPE FORWARD AND SPARED EUROPEAN COUNCIL NEW EMBARRASSMENT. PAPER SAID THAT INVOLVEMENT BY QUALITY POLITICIANS HOW REQUIRED TO ASSURE THAT FUTURE PARLIAMENT HAS STANDING AND--LATER-- GREATER POWER. PAPER RHETORICALLY QUESTIONED WHETHER FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WOULD APPROVE TREATY AMENDMENTS.
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